

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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P R 201009Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5717

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 0400

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT ELAB PO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: (A) LISBON 0359 (DTG 161659Z JAN), (B) 75 OSLO 5718 (DTG 241104Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS IN A THIRD COUNTRY, POSSIBLY VENEZUELA, THE FRG, SWEDEN, NORWAY, OR DENMARK. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE NON-COMMUNIST LABOR LEADERSHIP ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) FOR CONTROL OF

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ORGANIZED LABOR IS SERIOUSLY HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF BASIC LABOR

TRAINING. TWO GENERATIONS OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY SEPARATED FROM MODERN TRADE UNIONISM BY THE SALAZAR/CAETANO CORPORATE STATE AND ITS SYSTEM OF PATERNALISTIC LABOR/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. NEITHER BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, NOR LABOR UNDERSTANDS HOW UNIONS SHOULD FUNCTION AND THEIR LEGITIMATE ROLE. WHILE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT HAVE ACCESS TO OTHER FACILITIES, ORGANIZED LABOR IS DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CONFEDERATION, INTERSINDICAL, LEAVING FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS TO OBTAIN TRAINING.

2. ANTI-COMMUNIST POLITICAL RESURGENCE HAS HAD SIDE EFFECTS IN LABOR, ALLOWING THE ELECTION OF NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS IN A NUMBER OF UNIONS. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A POLITICALLY ADEPT, ANTI-COMMUNIST MINISTER OF LABOR. THERE IS NOW A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THAT COMMUNIST CONTROL OF PORTUGUESE LABOR CAN BE BROKEN. THERE IS ALSO A REAL DANGER, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PRESENT ADVANTAGES MAY ONLY BE TEMPORARY. IF NON-COMMUNIST LABOR IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE UNION LEADERS THAN IT HAS TO DATE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL AGAIN SEIZE UNDISPUTED CONTROL. IT IS TRITE BUT TRUE THAT THE FUTURE OF THE NASCENT PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY DEPENDS TO A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE UPON POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. EFFORTS BY THE ICFTU, THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS, AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO PROVIDE LABOR TRAINING HAVE FALLEN FAR SHORT OF THE NEED. THE ICFTU/SOCIALIST CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION (CES) HAS MOVED TO SPACIOUS QUARTERS, BUT ITS DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL INSTRUCTOR, PELAGIO MADUREIRA, IS NOW WORKING ONLY PART-TIME. WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S LABOR SPECIALIST, MARCELO CURTOO, NOW DESIGNATED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR, THE CES (AND THE SOCIALISTS) NOTABLY LACK QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS TO CONDUCT TRAINING SEMINARS.

4. THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FRONT (FDT) ORIGINALLY HAD TIES WITH THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS (NOW THE WCL), BUT CURRENTLY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE KONRAD ADENAUER INSTITUTE WHILE ADVOCATING A PRO-GERMAN LINE. THE FDT ALSO HAS SPACIOUS QUARTERS BUT CONDUCTS A NOTABLY INEFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM.

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5. THE BASE - UNITED WORKERS FRONT ORGANIZATION (BASE - FUT) HAS APPARENTLY REESTABLISHED TENTATIVE TIES WITH THE FRENCH CFDT AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF DEPENDENCY ON THE WCL. THE FRENCH LABOR ATTACHE, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CFDT, CONFIDED IN AUGUST, 1975, THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE CFDT WITHHOLD SUPPORT TO BASE - FUT DUE TO THE FAR LEFTIST ORIENTATION OF SOME OF THE LOCAL LEADERS.

IN SPITE OF INTERMITTENT SEMINARS, BASE-FUT DOES NOT REPRESENT AN ALTERNATIVE TRAINING SOURCE. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT DURING A JANUARY, 1976 VISIT TO PORTUGAL, CFDT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY JACQUES MOREAU AND IMMIGRANT SECRETARY PIERRE EVAIN ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH INTERSINDICAL AND INVITED AN INTERSINDICAL DELEGATION TO VISIT FRANCE.

6. THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE FOR PORTUGAL NOW MAKES ONLY INTERMITTENT VISITS. THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION HELD A PORT WORKERS SEMINAR IN EARLY 1975 AND PLANS ANOTHER FOR MERCHANT SEAMEN IN 1976. THE PTTI HELD ONE SEMINAR IN DECEMBER. THERE HAVE BEEN SOCIALIST-SPONSORED TRAINING SESSIONS FOR BANK, INSURANCE, AND METALLURGICAL WORKERS.

7. IN BRIEF, THE TRAINING NEED IS NOT BEING MET. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO PROPOSE THAT A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS BE ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE OF PORTUGAL, POSSIBLY IN VENEZUELA, THE FRG, SWEDEN, NORWAY, OR DENMARK. HOSTING SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME AS THERE IS STILL TOO GREAT A PROBABILITY THAT THE PARTICIPANTS COULD BE NEUTRALIZED LATER BY BEING LABELLED AS "U.S. STOOGES." THE NUMBER OF TRAINING COURSES WOULD, OF COURSE, DEPEND UPON CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THE EFFORT IS NEEDED EVEN IF ONLY ON A ONE-TIME BASIS. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE US FINANCING, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS OR LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WOULD AGREE TO SHARE IN-COUNTRY COSTS.

8. VENEZUELA WOULD SEEM TO OFFER THE ADVANTAGES OF A SOPHISTICATED LABOR MOVEMENT WITH FRIENDLY, NON-SUBSERVIENT TIES

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TO US LABOR, ESTABLISHED LABOR TRAINING FACILITIES, AND AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH VENEZUELA (PETROLEUM POLITICS) AND THERE IS A LARGE PORTUGUESE COLONY RESIDENT THERE. PORTUGUESE CAN USUALLY UNDERSTAND LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH TO AN ACCEPTABLE DEGREE SO THAT INTERPRETING PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

9. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS ALREADY SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN TRAINING PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS. SIX SOCIALIST COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE FRG UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FRIEDRICH EBERT INSTITUTE DURING FEBRUARY 1976. A GROUP OF 120 YOUNG GERMANS, SPONSORED BY THE
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DGB, WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PORTUGAL DURING CHRISTMAS BUT THE TRIP WAS POSTPONED DUE TO THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY HERE.

10. THE NORWEGIANS HAVE FOLLOWED PORTUGUESE LABOR DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND ARE PLANNING TO OPEN A LABOR ORIENTED CULTURAL CENTER IN LISBON DURING 1976. MIGHT TOR ASPENGREN OF THE NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) BE PERSUADED TO ESTABLISH TRAINING SEMINARS IN PORTUGAL USING THE CULTURAL CENTER AS A FACILITY? REF (B) INDICATES THAT LO IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD PORTUGUESE MODERATES. EVEN IF THE LO SHOULD ESTABLISH A LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAM, ADDITIONAL TRAINING OVERSEAS WOULD STILL BE ESSENTIAL.

11. THE SWEDES HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL LABOR DELEGATIONS FROM PORTUGAL AND COMMAND THE MOST WIDESPREAD RESPECT AMONG PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS.

12. EMBASSIES LISTED AS ACTION ADDRESSEES WILL DOUBTLESSLY WISH

TO COMMENT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A PROGRAM BOTH FROM A US
AND FROM THEIR HOST COUNTRY VIEWPOINT. OBVIOUS PROBLEMS ARE THE
FUNDING OF SUCH A PROGRAM; ARRANGING THE FINANCIAL ASPECT AND THE
INVITATIONS IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES; AND THE
SUITABILITY OF THE PROGRAM TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE THIRD
COUNTRIES. COMMENTS ARE SOLICITED.

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